

brown when the sea is agitated. At sunset the waves are kindled with glowing hues of purple and emerald. Or, as Byron sings,—

“ O'er the hushed deep the yellow beam he throws,
Gilds the green wave that trembles as it grows.”

A variety of local circumstances also influence the colour of the ocean-waters and tom



FIG. 207.—SARGASSO WEED.

be of white sand, and the water not very deep, its tint will be grayish or apple-green ; if the sand be yellow, the green is deepened and darkened. The neighbourhood of reefs is frequently indicated by the “ pronounced colour ” of the surrounding sea. In the Bay of Loango the waters seem of a burning red, because such is the natural colour of its bed.

At other times a peculiar tint is given to the waters by coloured animalcules. The Red Sea owes its colouring to a microscopic alga, the *Trichodesmium erythræum*. The sea-waters—condensed by the spontaneous action of the solar rays—in the salt-marshes of Southern France assume, when they have arrived at a certain stage of